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BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS TO-NIGHT.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—ROMEO AND JULIET.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—THE PRINCESS ROYAL.
MOWERY THEATRE—THE TWO ORPHANS.
WALLACK'S THEATRE—ROSEDALE.
DELLER'S THEATRE—PRODIGIOUS.
ROOFUS THEATRE—AMOS CLARK.
UNION SQUARE THEATRE—SMILE.
GILMORE'S CONCERT GARDEN—SENNER CONCERT.
ACADEMY OF DESIGN—ANNUAL EXHIBITION.
STEINWAY HALL—MAY FESTIVAL.
TONY PASTOR'S THEATRE—COMIC OPERA.
COLUMBIA OPERA HOUSE—VARIETY.
CENTRAL PARK GARDEN—VARIETY.
NEW YORK AQUARIUM—OCEAN FISHES.
TIVOLI THEATRE—VARIETY.

TRIPLE SHEET.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1877.

NOTICE TO COUNTRY DEALERS.

The Adams Express Company run a special newspaper train over the Pennsylvania Railroad and its connections leaving New York City at a quarter past four A. M. daily, and carrying the regular edition of the *HERALD* as far West as Harrisburg, and South to Washington, reaching Philadelphia at a quarter past six A. M. and Washington at one P. M.

From our reports this morning the probabilities are that the weather in New York today will be cooler and generally clear, except during the early morning, when light rain may fall.

WALL STREET YESTERDAY.—The stock market was more active and was generally weaker. The report of the cutting of passenger rates between Chicago and New York sent New York Central down, and the rest of the list was not strong enough to resist the weakening effect of this report. Gold opened and closed at 106½, selling in the meantime at 107. Governments were quiet and firm, and railroad bonds strong and higher. Money on call lent at 1½ a 2 per cent.

NEW YORK IS TO BE blessed with half a dozen free baths on the 1st of June. This is good, but a dozen would be better, and still leave room for improvement.

A TERRIBLY DRAMATIC SCENE was witnessed at the burial of Gussor, the victim of the mysterious assassination at East Williamsburg. His wife at the grave frantically begged the dead man to reveal his murderer's name. But dead men tell no tales.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Maryland Jockey Club has proved thoroughly successful. Yesterday the Pimlico Course was thronged with the beauty and fashion of the State. The events were well contested, and general satisfaction was expressed by the patrons of the turf.

THE CITY OF BRUSSELS.—The disabled ship has been again signalled by the steamer Ohio, and reported all well. We append to the despatch announcing this pleasing intelligence an explanatory statement of the weather conditions attending the voyage of the City of Brussels after the 15th inst. from data collected by the *HERALD* weather service regarding recent movements of the atmosphere on the North Atlantic. There is now no doubt that the long-looked-for arrival of the City of Brussels will be reported by Friday or Saturday at farthest, and an end put to the anxieties of the friends of the voyagers.

SWILL MILK.—Mr. Bergh is to be congratulated on his efforts to put an end to the infamous traffic in swill milk, to which the *HERALD* some time ago called attention. In suppressing this death-dealing traffic Mr. Bergh will render a really important service to the community. He can depend on the support of the public and the press in his operations against the dishonest dairymen whose nefarious traffic is so fatal to infant life in this metropolis. If the law as it exists at present is not sufficiently stringent amendments must be made; but much can be done under existing laws to abate the traffic in swill milk, and we trust to the fearless energy of Mr. Bergh in the cause of humanity to see that every guilty person is punished to the full extent of the law.

THE CHESTER HORROR.—The evidence elicited at the inquest on the bodies of the men killed at the launching of the steamship Saratoga at Chester fails to clear up the question as to whether or not sufficient warning was given to the men to enable them to escape. On this point the evidence is very contradictory, some alleging that fifteen minutes elapsed from the time the word was given to get from under to the slipping of the ship into the water. Others state that a minute and a half at most elapsed between the order to cut away the stays and the moving of the ship off the stocks. The truth of the matter seems to be that the men who should have watched the first movement of the ship performed their task carelessly, and that when it was discovered that the ship had moved it was too late to do more than was done. Any hesitation about cutting the stays might have led to still greater loss of life.

THE WEATHER.—The barometer is rising steadily in the Northwest and West as the area of high pressure extends southward from Manitoba toward the Gulf. During the early morning, the period of lowest temperature, this area has extended to the Gulf coast, but receded again as the day advanced. On the Atlantic coast the pressure is low, but gradually rising. The centre of the low area has already reached Nova Scotia coastwise, and is leaving the continent. Light rains fell on the Middle Atlantic seaboard and in the lower lake region during yesterday. The winds have continued brisk to high in the lake region and on the coast, being generally from the northward, except in the Northwest, where they are southeasterly and easterly, blowing toward a depression advancing through British Columbia. The isotherm of 70 degrees, which was during the morning south of Tennessee, advanced during the day to the Ohio and Lower Missouri Valley, embracing the lower Middle States. Another heat area has descended from the Northwest, where a very high temperature prevails in comparison with more southerly points. The progress of this heat area will be noted with interest, as it is likely to cause violent local storms in the Upper Mississippi Valley. The weather in New York today will be generally clear, except in the morning, and cooler than it was yesterday.

England's Attitude and Resources.

In what contingency is England likely to become a party to the war in the East? Is there any event the occurrence of which will inevitably be followed by an English declaration of war or by the certainty that England will maintain the attitude of a more or less discontented yet peaceful spectator? England at present exercises on the councils of the belligerents such an influence as follows from a standing menace toward one and a hope never desperate held out toward the other. She is so far from being an absolute neutral that if the Sultan did not count upon her he would make peace to-morrow; and if the Emperor of Russia did not know that he must count with her he would put two hundred thousand more men in the valley of the Danube. Her threat that in a certain contingency she will interfere compels Russia to hold herself in readiness in other quarters to that extent, and induces the Sultan to venture a mad struggle on the chance that a happy accident may make England a party to the conflict ere he is quite brayed in the mortar of war. To delude an ally to his ruin by false hopes will not rest on the British conscience; but the ethics of a threatening attitude are as clear for nations as for individuals. There is a responsibility to the common opinion of mankind involved in it; for the power that threatens virtually pledges itself before the world to act in a given way on the occurrence of a specified fact, and if it fails it is set down as a vain and noisy bully. Is it possible to draw precisely at the present time the line at which England must redeem her pledge, or beyond which her threat must be regarded as only a part of the posturing and attitudinizing by which her government has sought to frighten Russia from the pursuit of its policy?

In the debate on Mr. Gladstone's resolutions the gentleman who was put up to respond on the part of the Ministry to the onslaught of the great liberal orator endeavored to emphasize by iteration the declaration that England wished the war had not occurred and wished it was well over, and had no concern in it, and did not wish or intend to fight Russia, but could not but recognize that there were certain interests which she must defend if they were menaced. In saying this much even the spokesman for the Ministry was apparently almost frightened at what he had said, and explained that really the likelihood of these interests being menaced was so remote that it was hardly worth while for England to say what she would do in such a contingency. The interests thus referred to were specified. They are the Suez Canal, Egypt, the Dardanelles and Constantinople. There was also a vague reference to "Batoum and other places," as if it were in the Ministerial programme to hint that Russia must not be over successful in any neighborhood that was in the direction of India, and as if a sudden report of Russian successes near Kars had made it injudicious to put out just then a hint so little likely to be respected by the Russians. As to Egypt, the Suez Canal and Constantinople, therefore, the position just taken by England is clear. As to Russian successes gained in countries that command other important routes to India it is less clear, but there is in the British official mind a conception that England should not regard such successes with indifference, and this conception may show itself in acts if the circumstances are favorable at the time. England may fight if Russia is suddenly successful in Armenia. She must fight if Egypt, the canal or Constantinople is in danger.

Perhaps this is tolerably safe ground for the British Ministry to take. It is vague on the one point as to which Russia's action is certain to be precisely what England must object to if she expresses any opinion at all; and the declaration of England becomes distinct and sharp precisely in proportion as it approaches those points on which Russia's course is uncertain, as to which Russia either has no policy or her policy is not known. Here it seems safe to vapor and bluster, and the British Ministry does it. To threaten war in case the Russian armies should rapidly succeed in any quarter would make it necessary to fight or apologize early, because the Russian armies are very likely to gain substantial triumphs in a short time in Armenia. Hence it was unsafe to be tempted, even for the sake of the Euphrates Valley, into words that might have to be swallowed before midsummer. But the probability that Russia will make any naval demonstrations in the Mediterranean is so slight that there can be few things safer than for England to commit herself to a declaration based on that remote probability. Consequently the declaration will weigh positively that England will defend the Suez Canal and Egypt and the Dardanelles—will defend, in fact, what it does not yet appear that any one is likely to menace. Indeed, Russia is so little prepared to make any demonstration with regard to Egypt that the story which represents her as disposed to make a convention with England in regard to that country is very probably true. This report is practically to the effect that England is to buy Egypt from the Sultan with the consent of Russia, the price to be a capitalization of the Egyptian tribute. If England should thus become the suzerain of Egypt she would do more to dismember the Ottoman Empire than has been done by all others together; for, with Egypt taken, the other Mediterranean dependencies would fall away of themselves, and the Pashahs would thus lose twenty millions out of his forty millions of subjects. This is no doubt the easiest way in which England can take care of her interests in the Suez Canal and in Egypt, for she is able to pay though she cannot fight; but before this bargain is completed some other governments in Europe will want practical guarantees for the neutrality of the canal.

England's policy, therefore, as disclosed by the statement in the House of Commons, is that of weakness—the policy of a Power which feels that it has not the strength to enforce its will, but is painfully solicitous lest this helplessness shall be noticed by others, and therefore boisterously declares how terribly it will deal with its enemies if

they come in its way—particularly as it happens to know they are going in another direction. The statement we give to-day of England's resources, and of her comparative incapacity to take any effective part in the war against Russia exhibits fully that this policy is enforced by the facts of her position. Any declaration made by England of a purpose to interfere with the operations of Russian armies would be idle and even laughable. With wars conducted on such a scale as is now seen on the Danube and in Armenia the twenty-five or thirty thousand soldiers that England can send from home would be a mere drop in the bucket, and she cannot move her armies from India for the simple reason that her tenure of that country is such that it will cease to be hers if she does not continue to hold it with all the force she has in it. She has a fleet, and Russia will not put herself in a way to come in collision with it just at present; so that England, perhaps, will be able to play to the end the safe rôle of bullying everybody and not firing a shot, and gathering up carefully, when peace is made, such crumbs of plunder as are within her reach.

Garbage in the Sound—A Threatened Pestilence.

On behalf of the residents of the towns and villages lying along the Sound we again protest against the outrage perpetrated by the bureau for the removal of garbage from the streets of New York. Instead of towing the garbage scows far out into the Sound, where it is wide and deep, the men in charge of them dump their horrible cargoes by night in shallow water, in the vicinity of Whitestone, Throgg's Neck, the Stepping Stones, City Island, Sands Point and other places, in direct violation of law. The scows carry on the average two hundred and fifty tons each, and as from ten to fifteen or more of them are emptied every night the amount of garbage dumped into the Sound every week reaches the startling figure of more than twenty-five thousand tons. All this filth, instead of being washed out to sea, is cast ashore by the tide; the carcasses of dogs, cats and other animals and fragments of infected bedding and clothing lie rotting for miles along the beach, polluting the air and threatening pestilence. Many families who own summer residences along these shores will be driven from them if this outrage is permitted to continue.

Nor is this all. The dumping of so vast an amount of poisonous garbage into the shallow water at the entrance of the Sound is rapidly destroying the rich oyster beds of City Island and other localities and exterminating the fish. Immense mischief has already been done in this respect, and if the garbage outrage continues unchecked during the summer the injury to these important interests will be irreparable. The shores on both sides of the Sound and of the inlets and bays are dotted with pretty, thriving villages, built up by honest, intelligent and hard working fishermen, whose industry is thus threatened with annihilation. A plague stench rises over the shores of Little Neck Bay, Cow Bay, Hempstead Harbor, East Chester Bay and City Island, and makes them unendurable for human habitation. The atmosphere is at times worse than that of a charnel house. We invite pestilence in permitting this outrage upon the rights of our fellow citizens. The danger from this source is imminent and alarming; and from selfish, if not from higher and more generous motives, prompt measures should be taken by our sanitary officers to put an end to an abominable outrage which deprives thousands of worthy people of the means of livelihood and threatens the metropolis with pestilence. The fishermen of City Island take openly of taking the matter into their own hands. If our authorities do not move promptly, we may hear of a fight between the outraged fishermen and the garbage men resulting, perhaps, in deplorable loss of life.

There is still another evil connected with this outrage. We learn, on the testimony of two intelligent and trustworthy pilots, which they are willing to give under oath, that within the past six months the depth of the channel opposite the Stepping Stones has decreased from nine fathoms to five. Will our merchants sit quietly by while the gateway of this great highway of commerce is thus choked and closed? Why expend hundreds of thousands of dollars in deepening Hell Gate if the Street Cleaning Bureau is permitted to create a more effectual obstruction at the very throat of the Sound? In a few years, if this goes on, millions may be required to dredge out the channel, and then we shall wonder at the folly, supineness and imbecility that made the expenditure a necessity.

War News.

The dearth of stirring news from the seats of war in the East suggests the calm before the storm that must soon break in thunderous uproar from many points along the Danube Valley as well as in Asia Minor. The secrecy with which the Russian movements are surrounded gives little chance to speculate with any approach to accuracy. Great movements are so often made only as a mask for greater that the massing of large bodies of troops in Western Roumania must not be regarded as a reliable indication that the grand advance is to take place from that region. It is certain, however, that the coming week will witness great events and will supply important material for history. The Turkish fleet continues its incendiary industry along the eastern shores of the Black Sea, and also menaces the south coast of Russia. But we notice that a Russian threat to the Bey of Tunis, which may be executed by the Czar's fleet, is agitating the Sultan's vassal in Africa. The departure of the Sultan to take the command of the Army of the Danube in prosecuting the holy war has been decided on. In Asia Minor Batoum has been invested by the Russians, and, according to our latest despatches, a sanguinary battle is in progress for the possession of the town. The Cossacks scour the country on Monkhkar Pacha's right, completely cutting him off from any supports from the south, and everything points to the probability of a desperate battle in front and on both flanks of the

Songianli position, now occupied by that commander. Kars may be said to be entirely isolated now, for the flying Turkish garrison from Ardahan could not seek refuge within its fortifications. In the meantime fanatical rage rules the discussions of the Turkish Parliament.

The Mormons Once More.

Our Salt Lake correspondent sends us some curious documents, signed by Brigham Young, showing his defiant spirit toward the United States, and also the very great powers he possessed in former days. The letter in which he notifies John D. Lee, in 1858, that the President has condoned the offences of the Mormons, exhibits the spirit of the leaders at Salt Lake in those days:—"He pardons you because he can't kill you without its costing him too much," writes Brigham; "but he calculates to spit on his hands and begin again. We must save our provisions and get ready." When General Sidney Johnston's army approached Utah Young declared martial law and forbade the passage of any person through the Territory without a passport from Mormon authorities, and specimens of these passes are sent by our correspondent. The unfortunate Arkansas emigrants, to quote the words of John D. Lee after his condemnation, had not the right sort of pass.

Link after link of the chain of evidence which will criminate the leading Mormons seems to be riveting. Evidence already in the District Attorney's hands fixes guilt on Colonel Dame and Haight. But it seems that Mrs. Haight professes to have a paper in her possession with which she expects to shield her husband. Colonel Dame has also expressed himself confident of being able to show by whose authority he ordered the massacre. That is to say, Lee's execution has shown other Mormons that Brigham Young and the prophets may in the end try to sacrifice them, and they do not mean to die as Lee did. On the whole the Mormon business never was so interesting as now. Meantime the correspondents of other journals begin slowly, but completely, to confirm the reports of our own correspondent. "If Brigham Young were to be put on trial, say for murder, either as principal or accessory, he would be convicted and sentenced to the Penitentiary for a long term, or to execution, there would be great danger, I think, of an outbreak; only in view of such a contingency is there any need of additional troops in Utah," so writes one of the correspondents, and justifies thus the request for more troops made by Governor Emory.

Fourth of July Fireworks.

The anniversary of American independence is always a day of peril to our large cities, and is looked forward to with uneasiness by the insurance companies, which will have to make up the losses occasioned by an indiscriminate scattering of burning combustibles in all our streets and avenues. The danger is multiplied by the growing custom of entertaining the children of separate households by evening displays of private fireworks. This custom ought to be dispensed with, except in the country, where there is ample space for setting off these explosives and combustibles in the grounds and lawns at a safe distance from buildings. It might seem harsh and ungracious for the city authorities to forbid it; but they ought not to wait until a terrible conflagration, kindled by this dangerous practice, enforces the necessity. Fire is the great enemy of property in large towns, and no regulations can be too strict for guarding against losses from this source. If the two or three weeks preceding the Fourth of July should happen to be a season of drought, converting the dry woodwork of structures into tinder, thirty or forty thousand separate sources of ignition flying through the air and liable to strike window frames or light upon roofs, would be a cause of more peril than the celebration is worth.

We are not so churlish as to advise a suppression of fireworks on the Fourth of July, but we would not leave it to the discretion of every careless individual in a city of a million inhabitants to do things which might set dwellings and even whole blocks in a blaze. If private fireworks were dispensed with and citizens of each ward or smaller district would subscribe the sums they spend for such purposes to a fund for a display in their own neighborhoods, the children might be entertained with a much finer spectacle without going far from their own doorsteps, and without being jostled and jammed in the disorderly crowds which attend the great pyrotechnic exhibitions given at the expense of the city in the public squares. It is very proper that the young people should be amused, and no discreet parent wishes to take them into a noisy crowd where they can see nothing unless lifted up on the shoulders of grown persons, and are exposed to listen to a great deal of rude language. But the plan we recommend would exempt them from this inconvenience and yet give them a far more brilliant spectacle than is afforded by the ordinary private fireworks. The combustibles could be put in charge of discreet and careful men, who would manage them with perfect safety to property.

An Infamous Apportionment Bill.

A simple inspection of the election figures makes it evident that the democrats of this State are not fairly represented in the Legislature. Governor Robinson was chosen last November by a majority of more than thirty thousand, and yet the Legislature chosen in the same election by the same voters consists of nineteen republicans against thirteen democrats in the Senate, and seventy republicans against fifty-eight democrats in the Assembly. With a perfectly fair apportionment the political party which elected the Governor by a handsome majority would also elect a majority of the Legislature. It must be admitted, however, that even with a fair apportionment this could not take place in every election, because the State is reapportioned in accordance with population only at intervals of ten years, and within so long a period great changes take place in a Commonwealth where the growth of cities is so rapid and the population of the rural districts remains nearly stationary. But this discrepancy between party strength on the State ticket and party strength in the Legis-

lature ought not to have been so great in the election of last year, because it was the next year after a State census. But the Legislature of 1876 failed to make the new apportionment which the constitution commands at the first session following a State census, and the consequence was that the democrats were cheated out of the Legislature although fairly entitled to it.

The duty of reapportioning the State, which was neglected by the last Legislature, has been postponed by this until the closing days of the session, and a bill was passed yesterday by the Assembly which is so brazenly dishonest that even republicans who have any sense of decency ought to denounce it. It is what is called the Hogeboom bill, and was carried through the Assembly yesterday by the unscrupulous parliamentary tactics of Mr. Alvord, the republican leader in that body. A tolerably fair apportionment bill, of which Mr. Woodin is the author, had already passed the Senate, and it seems probable now that a disagreement between the two houses will prevent the passage of any bill at this session. In a narrow partisan view nothing could serve the interests of the republican party better, because a further postponement of action on the census of 1875 would deprive the democrats of any increase of representation in the next Legislature; whereas Senator Woodin's bill, and even the Hogeboom-Alvord bill, would give them some gains. The infamous Hogeboom bill was not passed by the Assembly with any expectation that it can become a law—for if accepted by the Senate the Governor would certainly veto it—but with a simple view to put off the reapportionment for another year in defiance of the constitution, with the hope of another unfair republican majority in the next Legislature. This manoeuvre is as bad in tactics as it is disgraceful in morals. If the dishonest Hogeboom bill passes or the apportionment fails Governor Robinson will call an extra session. True, it will be a session of the same partisan Legislature which has so grossly abused its trust, but it will enable the Governor to make an appeal to the moral sense of the people which will deprive the republican party of more strength than it can expect to gain by its unscrupulous violation of a plain constitutional duty. The fact that New York and Brooklyn are democratic cities is no reason why they should be deprived of their constitutional representation in the Legislature.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Esipoff has gone.
Grims are cut broader.
Ben Hill is a good shot.
Greece burns to be snuffed.
Justice Bradley is in Florida.
Hugging lovers are pressed veal.
Gaily Hamilton touched her guilt.
Sam Bowles is registered in Chicago.
The Duchess of Edinburgh is at Coburg.
The apron and corset are out of fashion.
Charley Ross is trying to find P. T. Barnum.
Georgia farmers are shearing a good wool crop.
The Indian crop in the West is nearly hatched.
The newest style of dress in Paris is called the eelskin.
Orange county, New York, is troubled with mad dogs.
Ex-Empress Eugénie will reach Madrid in a few days.
Hydrophobia has reached Buffalo, and Eli Perkins is in California.
Rochester's daughter Nodine will marry Dufaux, a Geneveve painter.
The Spanish are so unchangeable that they will not become good cooks.
General Nathaniel P. Banks, of Massachusetts, is at the Fifth Avenue.
Paul Sheridan heard it was twice, and exclaimed, "The deuce you say."
The Roumanians are handsome and well dressed, but not especially brave.
General Joe Johnston thinks that in America volunteers are superior to regular soldiers.
A Massachusetts four-year-old boy wished he was an angel, so that his legs would not get tired.
Mrs. Valentine Baker has hastened to Turkey to nurse her husband in his illness from typhoid fever.
Senator George F. Edmunds, of Vermont, was in the city yesterday, on his way home from Washington.
Secretary Evarts struck a Russian senator yesterday on which he is still chewing. He says it is as bad as him.
If you go fishing be prudent enough to take your own bait with you. There may be no taters on the road.
Professor E. S. Morse, of Salem, Mass., will sail for Japan, where he will study natural history for several months.
Major General John H. Leifroy, of England, returned to the city from Washington yesterday and is at the Brevoort.
Since the war began country journalists try to show their knowledge by going into a store and asking for a vitchiki suit.
Rochester Chicago-Times. All right, Mr. Storey; make out your little bill."

A young English lady at a party wore a plain pink dress so tight that when she sat down she appeared like a statue in ice cream.
Le Messager Franco-Américain, a journal which has long been a necessity to a large number of French citizens, has reduced its price to three cents.
Richmond Whig.—"The carnival is not suited to the genius of a community which lives and moves and has its being in an atmosphere of discounts and percentages."
At the Pope's reception on the 1st of May two girls appeared to be much fatigued by carrying huge and seemingly heavy bouquets of lilies of the valley. After the reading of an address to the Pope the cause of the display of fatigue was explained, as large packages of gold coins fell out of the bouquets.
Cincinnati Enquirer.—"Garfield's sacrifice was made in vain. He lost the Senatorship which he possibly might have had, listening to the promise of the Speaker, which he can't get, and which the man who promised it had not to give. It was the old story of Satan standing on the mountain top and offering his companion all the real estate in sight when the devil didn't own a foot of it."
The British Quarterly is severe upon Dr. A. Mahan, who writes a "Critical History of the Late American War," and who says that if his advice had been taken at the beginning of the war it would have soon been ended, and that it was unwise when his scheme was adopted by the Federal authorities. Dr. Mahan calls "Sherman's March" a gigantic military blunder.
Evening Telegram.—"It seems to be considered a sinning in Boston for the respectable young rowdy, of whom the disorderly college student is a type, to be furnished by society with a safety valve for his exuberant spirits. In that moral city, of whose superior virtue to New York we are in no danger of losing sight so long as Judge Hoar lives, the free love conventions take place in this respect which in old times the conventions of the Garrisonian abolitionists used to fill. The reports of the invasion of one of these assemblies last night by a party of twenty young evangelists from Harvard College are very lively. They made addresses in opposition to the male speakers, and they noiled up to the female participants and fondled them against the protest of the officers of the meeting. They also put questions of an indecent character to the chairman. It is difficult to decide, on the face of the report, whether the free lovers or these well connected young men made the more respectable appearance. So much is sure, that if this is a specimen of the discipline of Harvard College to care, it is not worth while to educate a man there."

THE WAR.

The Sultan Preparing to Unfurl the Standard of the Prophet.

A BATTLE IN PROGRESS AT BATOUM

Concentrating for a Decisive Struggle at Bardess.

THE MAGYARS CLAMOROUS FOR WAR.

Roumania and Servia Making Ready for the Struggle.

A TRIPLE ALLIANCE.

Rumored Understanding Between Russia, Germany and Italy.

(BY CABLE TO THE HERALD.)

LONDON, May 24, 1877.

There is little news of active operations at the seat of war in the East this morning, and we are awaiting with almost breathless anxiety the first news of the Russian army attempting the passage of the Danube. The reports of the extensive preparations for that event which have been published recently have directed public attention to the subject, and the absence of decisive news tends to deepen the anxiety as to the result.

But while the preparations for an active prosecution of the war are being pushed with all possible vigor Russia, as if assured of victory, begins to hint at the conditions on which she is prepared to conclude a peace. A Berlin despatch has the following:—"It is pretty universally believed at St. Petersburg that the Russian government would not object to Constantinople and the Suez Canal being placed under the protection of Roumania, Bulgaria, Servia and Montenegro and annex the village of Erzerum."

SECRECY OF THE RUSSIAN MOVEMENTS.

The Russian movements are conducted with the utmost secrecy, and probably the first reliable news we shall receive from that quarter will be an account of a sudden movement in great force across the river, followed by a great and decisive battle fought on the Bulgarian side. A Hungarian correspondent says:—"Detailed statements of the movements of the Russians are forbidden, but even without this restriction the movements are so silently conducted that it would be exceedingly difficult to report them."

A correspondent at Vienna thinks the disposition of the Russian forces leads to the inference that they do not mean to attempt to cross the Danube between Sillaria and Rastchuk.

A HOLY WAR.

A Vienna despatch says the Sheikh-ul-Islam proclaimed a holy war against Russia, and the almost simultaneous announcement from Constantinople that the departure of the Sultan for the Danube has been decided upon would seem to show that the advice of those who all along looked upon the present struggle as one of existence for the Ottoman Empire has gained the ascendancy in the councils of the Porte.

THE WAR IN ASIA.

From Constantinople it is reported that the commander of the Ardahan garrison will be court-martialed. The Turkish official account of the taking of Ardahan admits the loss of 300 killed and wounded. Horses belonging to all civil and military functionaries have been requisitioned for the army. A despatch from Pera says a portion of the Ardahan garrison took the road to Ardandutch, having cut its way through the Russian column which endeavored to intercept it. A Vienna despatch says, Achaesch, to which the remnant of the Ardahan garrison retreated, is on the road toward Olti and Erzerum. Retreat on Kars was already cut off by the Russians, who blocked the road at Panisew. A telegram from Erzerum says the Russian left wing has advanced from Ipeck to within two hours' march of Kara-Kilisa, while an Ottoman detachment holds position at Toprak-Kaleh. Two regiments of Cossacks are scouring the country around the Peneh villages within seven hours' march of Mukhtar Pacha's camp for provisions for the Russian right wing. The Russians are said to have closed in upon the rear of Batoum, which is once more seriously threatened.

The combined forces of the Russians are marching against Mukhtar Pacha's positions at Olti and Bardes, but Mukhtar expects to be able to hold his ground.

A BATTLE COMMENCED AT BATOUM.

A despatch from Batoum says there was a tremendous cannonade to-day from the Russians. A battle has just commenced. Firing is becoming general along the entire line. The Turkish batteries are replying vigorously. The utmost enthusiasm prevails among the Ottoman troops. The Bashibazouks are preparing for action. Everything indicates a desperate effort on the part of the enemy. It is stated the Russian force assigned to the assault of Batoum has been strengthened by 25,000 men, who have just arrived from Ardahan. It is reported that the Grand Duke Michael commands the attack in person. The Turks are sanguine. A despatch from Erzerum, dated Tuesday night, says the Russians are moving rapidly forward in the direction of the Turkish left.

SERVIA PREPARING FOR ACTION.

A correspondent at Belgrade reports that the government has ordered the formation of twelve new battalions of artillery. All the reserves of the sedentary army are summoned to assemble, and all troops have been ordered to present themselves on or before May 29 fully armed. Prince Milan will not go to Bucharest until after the next meeting of the Skupstchina. It is believed at Constantinople that the Russians have arranged for a passage through Servian territory. The Servian police yesterday removed placards on the walls in Belgrade threatening Prince Milan's expulsion unless he renews the war. The general opinion in Vienna is he will do so when the Russians cross the Danube.

The Times' special from Belgrade confirms the report of Servian military preparations.

THE PORT'S HOME TROUBLES.

The troubles which have arisen between the Turkish Parliament and the Ministry still continue, and will doubtless tend to paralyze the action of the Ottoman government at a time when all its energies should be concentrated on the struggle with Russia. A short time ago the impeachment of Redif Pacha was threat-